Tết

By: William and Derek

Việt Customs

On New Year's Eve, Vietnamese people prepare a tray filled with sticky rice, chicken, Chung cakes, betel nuts, and more, offering it as a tribute to the heavenly deities. This ritual holds immense importance, symbolizing the homeowner's gratitude to heaven, earth, and ancestors, accompanied by wishes for a new year abundant in luck and success, free from the burdens of the past.

During subsequent days, people visit relatives and friends. Traditionally but not strictly, the second day of Tết is usually reserved for friends, while the third day is for teachers. Traditionally, each family displays *cây nêu*, an artificial New Year tree consisting of a bamboo pole 5–6 m (16–20 ft) long. In the central and southern parts of Vietnam, every house is usually decorated by Yellow Apricot blossoms, and in the northern part of Vietnam, peach blossoms.

Greetings and Wishes

An khang thịnh vượng

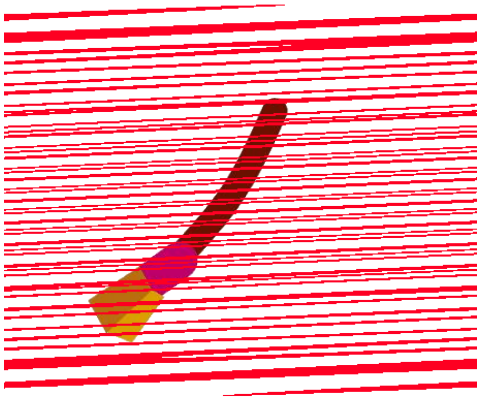
Customs and Taboos

Many customs and traditions are practiced during Tet, such as:

- Traveling home to visit family
- Cleaning the graves of deceased ancestors
- Wishing New Year's greetings
- Giving red envelopes containing money to children

Some taboos during Tet are:

- Don’t enter Vietnamese’s house early in the morning on the 1st day of Lunar New Year if you haven’t been invited by the host in advance
- No Black clothes and no White trousers
- When you meet someone again then you remember that he (she) borrowed money from you, Tet is not a suitable time to require them to repay you.
- Sweeping during Tết is taboo, as it symbolizes sweeping the luck away; that is why they clean before the new year



Vietnamese Zodiac

Games & Entertainment

Some games and entertainment during Tet are:

- Wrestling
- Tug of War
- Going on Stilts
- 'Gourd Crab Fish Tiger'
- Lion Dance

Tết foods

Canh bồ hưởng

Chả Giò

Chả Chiên

Bánh bò hưởng

Sources

- What do you use for a January Party
- Summary of 10 indispensable dishes on the traditional Tet
- Vietnamese Zodiac Wiki
- Tradition Explained: The First 3 Days Of Tết In Vietnam
- 10 Do’s and Dont’s in Tet
- Culture Corner
- Tết Wiki